

#29

ROOFTOP REVIEW
by
ROOFTOP IN PERFORMANCE

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1985

ROOFTOP REVIEW

SCENE ONE

Music - off beat, off
key rendition of music
only to "Open the Door"
fading as actors take
places on set.

Lights up.

Set: Fifth Grade
Classroom. Some desks,
a teachers space, blk.
board, etc.

Students mostly
listening but very
spontaneous in their
responses. At first
hands are raised &
usual classroom decorum
prevails - raising
hands, etc.

Mrs. Condon: (To 12 5th Graders) Boys and
girls, this morning we need to
discuss a problem we are having
at Rooftop. Some fifth graders
are not singing the Rooftop Song
at Morning Circle.

Yes _____? (name)

_____ (1st student) (Hand up) Yes! It's
a dumb song.

Several: Sounds of agreement

Mrs. Condon: Yes, _____?

_____ (2nd st.) It's boring, it's too long

_____ (3rd st) (without being called on)
I've sung it for five years and
I'm tired of it!

Several Sounds of agreement.

Mrs. Condon: (trying to pull the group back together) Boys & girls, I'm trying to understand what you're saying. I want to say that I believe the school song is an important way of showing our Rooftop Spirit and -

_____ (4th St.) Who cares? It's just not cool!

ENTER to surprised
reaction from all

KING KONG (Growling & thumping chest)

MRS. CONDON: Somewhat shocked
Why, King Kong, what a surprise!

KING KONG: Listen, you kids, me tired your
(~~voice over?~~) no Rooftop Spirit. Me leaving,
gonna take Mrs. Condon, too!
You change minds, maybe me come
back and bring her too.

KK grabs Mrs. C., who
is horrified. Looks
around, sees rainbow,
takes that too and
leaves.

Students are frightened,
then buzz of conversation
starts.

_____ (A LEADER) I wonder what is
happening in the rest of the school?

_____ (5th student) Let's go see!

General agreement, rush
starts.

_____ (A LEADER) Hey stop! Some of
us better stay in here. (Picks
St. #1) You - go check the Kinder-
gartens and Rm. 3. (Picks S #2,3)
You go to the Bungalows. (Picks
4, 5, & 6) Two of you check
the rooms upstairs and you (#6)
check the office and the caf.

St. #1 thru 6 exit in
various directions.

_____ (7th student) Do you think he took
any body else?

_____ (8th student) Who knows?

_____ (9th student) Who cares?

concerned _____ (10th student) What if he did?

unconcerned _____ (11th student) What if he did?

We'd better figure out what to do
if he did. After all we're oldest
so we're in charge.

_____ (9th st.) Yeah! (Liking the idea).

_____ (8th st.) Look! Here comes _____
(#1)

_____ (LEADER) Well?

_____ (#1) No teachers on this floor.

#2,3 return during the above Kindergarteners are pretty scared.

_____ (#2) No teachers in the bungalows.

_____ (#3) We checked the library , too.
It's locked. Ann's not in the motor
room either.

_____ (#8) What about Charlie?

_____ (#7) It's too early dummie, he doesn't
get here till later.

#4, 5 return

_____ (#4) Not a teacher in sight!

_____ (#5) It's a zoo up there!

_____ (LEADER) Where's Wick (#6)?

_____ (#5) I didn't see (her/him).

_____ (#6) I checked the caf. Gwen's gone!

He even took Diane and Mrs. Mayeda!

_____ (LEADER) (Sensing role more) Did anyone
see Llorena?

_____ (#1-6) No (shaking heads).

_____ (LEADER) OK, well, someone's gotta make
a decision and I have an idea.

_____ (#9) I'll bet you do!

_____ (LEADER) You guys go back to the class
rooms and tell everybody that we're
going to have a whole day of recess

_____ (#9) OK!!! Let's go wild!

_____ (#7) This is gonna be great!

They all start to leave
some running.

CHANGE OF SCENE TO SCHOOLYARD

Scene changers remove props, change platforms, drop changes.

Several shouts of Yay!, Oh boy! & A whole day of recess!

Mus.

Lights - half

Kids start running in.

All of the above in about 90 sec.

MUSIC TO COVER

SCENE TWO

Some students are already in the yard. One girl reading (4th grade); Two girls blabbing (4th grade); Four boys setting rules for 4 square (3rd grade). Others rush in (in groups with talk going on). Two start jumping rope (2nd grade). Three start racing (1st grade boys). Three wander in with lunch boxes sit down and eat snacks (Kinder.) Remainder move in and out of groups. Two 3rd grade boys start to wrestle (Judo kids). Group gathers round. Other 3rd grader (~~1st~~) tries to break it up.

James (5th grader #9) Let 'em fight!
[Bob Gourd (5th grader) Somebody's gonna get hurt.

Mike (5th grader) So?!

Paul (5th gr.) Stop smartin' me!

5th grader shoves other 5th grader. Shouts of "Ouch" "Stop that." I'll get you etc. Third graders stop fighting.

Eva (3rd or 2nd grader) Starts to cry. (this student must be in sc. III)

Storm starts. Sudden flashes
and thunder. (Orff students)

Graham (3rd grader) WOW!

2nd grader cries harder
joined by two more.

_____ (4th grade reader) Hey, it's going t
rain! What a bummer!

Bobbie (5th gr.) We better get inside.

Milena (1st grader) Let's go!

The storm continues. Electronic
flash units around room. Strobe?
Orff orchestra continues with
rumbling and punctuation of loud
thunder. Builds to include rain
sounds, covering scene change.

40 sec. max.

CHANGE SCENE TO MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
Actors take portable props with
them as they exit. Change drop.

SCENE THREE

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

Lights up

Storm muffled but continuing.

_____ () Well, now what?

Several (previous fighters) If you think

I'm going to forget . . .

I owe you one!

etc.

Fight starts again

_____ (2nd gr. II) crying again.

Older student comforting

_____ (1st gr.) This is not fun.

_____ (3rd gr.) We've gotta get King Kong
back!

_____ (4th grader) And how are we gonna
do that??

Two kids bring out bananas with
a flourish. One awful. A hungry
person grabs the other one - no
one wants the yucky one - it hits
the trash.

_____ () There goes that idea.

_____ (5th) Hey maybe we could take the
money for our camping trip and give
it to him.

_____ (10th) Forget it! He doesn't need
money!

_____ () (Know. We'll get a bunch
of us together and tell him we'll
beat him up and make him bring
everyone back.

_____ (1st grader) Yeah! I'm hungry
so make him bring Gwen first.

Several Noises of agreement

_____ (4th gr. reader) Boy, a whole days
work to make up!

_____ () I think we ought to send a groul
to talk him into it.

_____ (3rd grader) Yeah. Let's do that.

_____ () That won't work!

During this conversation
King Kong quietly assumes
a position at the side
of the auditorium
A little light on him.

_____ () Whaddya mean?

_____ (LEADER) He wants us to have Rooftop
Spirit.

_____ (3rd grader) We have it.

_____ (LEADER) He doesn't think so.

_____ () Let's show him!

_____ () How?

_____ () Let's show him some of the neat
stuff we can do.

Ruki (A SINGER) I wonder what happened
to everybody?

Starts singing to the tune
of "Maybe" from Annie.

Maybe far away or

Maybe real near by

He may be hiding our teachers

Maybe they're scared and they'll cry

Maybe . . .

Interrupting

 (2nd SINGER) You're right. We've
got to get them back. I'll bet
this song will do it.

Starts singing "Over the Rainbow"
from Wizard of Oz

Somewhere, there is a rainbow
Real nearby

First singer joins
CRYER ← Let's hope that he will hear us
Hear us, oh please don't cry.

3rd & 4th singer join
Somewhere there is a rainbow
From our school
Please come back with our rainbow
Help us, oh don't be cruel.

ACG-33 (4th grader) Maybe King Kong doesn't
like your singing.

 (LEADER) Let's think of something
else.

Everyone thinks. One
student tapping his foot
while(s)he thinks. Slow
accompaniment starts. (S)he
gets idea and starts a slow
tap dance. After a few

phrases one more joins
followed by one or two more
to a big finish. (Top hat
and cane type dance?)

Laurel (BREAKER) Not bad, not bad. But
I think King Kong likes my style
better.

A ghetto blaster has been set
up and now appears. Student
starts a break dance. King
Kong does not move.

Ray (3rd grader) Maybe he doesn't
like the blaster.

Ray () Hey man, that thing isn't even
supposed to be in school!

Marissa (GYMNAST) I've got an idea! Let's
try something without the music.
Here, help me with that thing.

Several bring ~~jumparoo~~ (?) mat and some gymnasts start
routines.
Storm has stopped at this
point.

Amelia (4th grader) Hey, this isn't working.

Joseph (2nd grader) I wonder why?

King (3rd grader) Maybe he likes other
stuff better.

Amelia (MUSICIAN) Let's see . . .

Single instrumental
joined by others in a
short number.

Dana (LEADER) You give me an idea.

Walks over to Orff
orchestra.

Wanna help us out?

Kids turn to each other
agree to help and start
an Orff number. Someone
notices King Kong.

3rd day

Evangelist

Hey, he's out there. I think
this is working, but we need
more help.

Turns to Chorus I

Answer

) What about you?

CHORUS (variously) Sure, we'll help.

CHORUS I number

Turns to CHORUS II

Same

Answer

) And you?

CHORUS II

OK! Maybe it'll help.

Answer

(CH. II member) Maybe if we sang about
something he likes it would work

Answer

(CH II member) I know one . . .

CHORUS II number

THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

Why are there so many
songs about rainbows
And what's on the other side?
Rainbows are visions
But only illusions
And rainbows have nothing to hide.
So we've been told
And some choose to believe it
I know they're wrong;
Wait and see.
Someday we'll find it
The rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers and me.
All of us under its spell
We know that it's probably magic.

Who said that every wish
 would be heard and answered
 When wished on the morning star.
 Somebody thought of that
 and someone believed it.
 Look what it's done so far.
 What's so amazing that keeps us
 star gazing
 And what do we think we might see?
 Someday we'll find it
 The rainbow connection.
 The lovers, the dreamers and me.
 All of us under its spell
 We know that it's probably magic.

Have you been half asleep,
 And have you heard voices
 I've heard them calling my name
 Is this the sweet sound that calls
 the young sailors?
 The voice might be one and the same
 I've heard it too many times to
 ignore it
 It's something that I'm supposed
 to be
 Someday we'll find it
 The rainbow connection
 The lovers the dreamers and me.
 La la la la la etc.

LEADER

(SEVERAL) Why isn't he coming back?

From the I

(#9) I don't know.

(LEADER) What else can we do?

(2nd grade cryer) Why don't we
 try singing the Rooftop Song?

(SEVERAL) Yeah. Let's try it.

(From the I)

(#9) Do we have to?

Marching up to #9

(From the I)

(2nd grade cryer) Don't you under
 stand yet??? He likes lots of
 things we do, but what he likes
 best is when we show our Rooftop
 Spirit together.

(SEVERAL) Come on, let's try!!

They start Open the door
MORE JOIN IN

Cryer gets #9 to join in
#9 sees King Kong being
more interested and joins
in at last line. Hugs cryer

Open the door & come on in
King Kong is here you, my
friend
You just like a rainbow
coming around the bend
And we are all happy
It sets me free all free
I want to be as a good
friend to you as you
are to me.

_____ (#9) (To audience) Will you help
us too?

Cryer gets King Kong and
whispers to him. He gets
Alida Ferber who leads
everyone in the song.

King Kong exits and returns
with teachers & staff.
During repeat of song, he
brings back the rainbow.

As song finishes, all cast
bows and lights up.

THE END